

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 3334

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MNUC PFOR
SUBJ: PRESIDENTIAL NUCLEAR POLICY STATEMENT

REF (A) STATE 067973 (B) TEHRAN 2686

1. WE RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING COMMUNICATION DATED APRIL 11 FROM DR. AKBAR ETEMAD, PRESIDENT OF THE ATOMIC ENERGY ORGANIZATION OF IRAN, IN RESPONSE TO THE TALKING POINTS I LEFT WITH THE COURT MARCH 29 (REF B). ETEMAD CHARACTERIZED THE FOLLOWING AS "IRAN'S PRELIMINARY COMMENTS ON THE US NUCLEAR POLICY". TEXT FOLLOWS:

QUOTE (A) IRAN SHARES THE CONCERN ABOUT THE DANGERS OF UN-REGULATED SPREAD OF NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE CAPABILITY. AT THE SAME TIME, IRAN HOPES THAT THE UNITED STATES COOPERATE WITH OTHER NATIONS IN FULFILLING THEIR LEGITIMATE ASPIRATION TO BENEFIT FROM NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY BY PEACEFUL APPLICATION.

(B) & (C) IRAN WISHES THE UNITED STATES SUCCESS IN ITS DOMESTIC NUCLEAR ENERGY POLICIES AND PROGRAMS. WE ESPECIALLY WELCOME THE DECISION TO INCREASE UNITED STATES PRODUCTION CAPACITY FOR NUCLEAR FUELS.

(D) THE PROPOSED UNITED STATES DECISIONS WOULD HAVE IMPLICATIONS FOR OTHER NATIONS. IRAN COMMENDS THE UNITED STATES FOR THE WISDOM TO SEEK THE VIEWS AND PARTNERSHIP OF CERTAIN INTERESTED NATIONS IN DEVELOPING INTERNATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS
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INCREASINGLY NEEDED TO MEET GLOBAL ENERGY DEMANDS AND MINIMIZE THE RISK OF PROLIFERATION. IRAN AFFIRMS ITS WISH TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF SUCH INTERNATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS.
(E) IRAN IS PREPARED TO DISCUSS INTERNATIONAL APPROACHES AND FRAMEWORKS WHICH WOULD TREAT EQUITABLY THE LEGITIMATE NUCLEAR OBJECTIVES OF ALL NATIONS AND PROMOTE THEIR COMMON GOALS. IN THIS RESPECT, IRAN WISHES TO REITERATE THAT AN EFFECTIVE INTER-

NATIONAL FUEL CYCLE PROGRAM REQUIRES PARTICIPATION BY DIVERSE INTERESTED NATIONS AND DETERMINATION TO AVOID ECONOMIC PENALTY FOR NATIONS STILL UNABLE TO MAKE SUBSTANTIAL TECHNOLOGICAL CONTRIBUTION.

(F) IRAN NOTES WITH SATISFACTION THE UNITED STATES POLICY OF ENCOURAGING ADHERENCE TO THE NPT AND TO COMPREHENSIVE INTERNATIONAL SAFEGUARDS, STRENGTHENING AND IMPROVING THE IAEA, AND TAKING OTHER APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO DEVELOP THE NON-PROLIFERATION REGIME. IRAN TRUSTS THAT THE SANCTIONS AGAINST THE VIOLATION OF NUCLEAR AGREEMENTS WITH THE UNITED STATES WILL BE APPLIED THOUGHTFULLY AND JUDICIOUSLY; SANCTIONS OTHERWISE IMPOSED WOULD THREATEN THE SMOOTH OPERATION OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR COOPERATION IN THE NUCLEAR ENERGY FIELD.

(G) & (H) IRAN APPRECIATES THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS ON THE UNITED STATES NUCLEAR ENERGY POLICY, AND WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR FURTHER CONSULTATIONS WHICH THE UNITED STATES MAY DEEM DESIRABLE. UNQUOTE.

2. ON APRIL 15 I HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK BRIEFLY WITH DR. ETEMAD IN SHIRAZ. HE TOLD ME THAT HE HAD HESITATED IN SENDING ME THE FOREGOING SINCE HE REALIZED THAT IT WAS GENERAL AND SOMEWHAT SUPERFICIAL. HE EXPLAINED THAT HE SIMPLY HAD NOT HAD TIME TO GIVE THE MATTER MATURE THOUGHT IT DESERVED. NEVERTHELESS, HE CONCLUDED THAT SOME RESPONSE WAS WARRANTED. I ENCOURAGED HIM TO GIVE THE MATTER FURTHER THOUGHT AND ASSURED HIM THAT WE WELCOMED ANY SUGGESTIONS HE MAY HAVE SUPPORTIVE OF OUR COMMON NON-PROLIFERATION OBJECTIVE AND OUR DESIRE TO WORK CLOSELY WITH OUR FRIENDS TOWARD THIS OBJECTIVE.

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3. ETEMAD SAID THAT HE LOOKED FORWARD TO THE EARLY RESUMPTION OF BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS ON US-IRAN NUCLEAR COOPERATION AGREEMENT. FOR SOME REASON HE SEEMED TO EXPECT THAT THE PRESIDENT'S ANTICIPATED STATEMENT ON US ENERGY POLICY WOULD LAY THE GROUNDWORK. I RESPONDED THAT WHILE OUR ENERGY POLICY AND OUR INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR COOPERATION POLICIES MAY HAVE INTERRELATED AND INTERDEPENDENT FEATURES, I DID NOT KNOW WHETHER POLICY REGARDING BOTH WOULD BE ARTICULATED AT THE SAME TIME. IN ANY EVENT, I ASSURED ETEMAD OF OUR INTEREST IN RESUMING OUR DIALOGUE SOON. THIS THEME WAS PICKED UP IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL EDITION OF APRIL 16 WHICH QUOTED ETEMAD AS SAYING INTER ALIA THAT "TALKS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WOULD RESUME SOON ON THE SALE OF UP TO 8 U.S. REACTORS. WE HOPE TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS AND INTEND TO COME TO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT."

MIKLOS

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